

Application No. 10/601,007

Filed: June 20, 2003

TC Art Unit: 1797

Confirmation No.: 5771

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please **replace** the paragraph beginning at line 26 on page 2 and ending at line 3 on page 3 with the following:

As an embodiment of a conventional high voltage pulse sterilization method, for example, as shown in Fig. 9—(a), a sterilizer A for containers is provided with a processing device comprising a power source B for generating high voltage, a discharge side electrode C for applying the high voltage generated by this power source B, a entrance and exit means (not illustrated) for putting this discharge side electrode C in and out of a packaging container D such as a ~~pet-bottle~~ PET bottle, and a ground side electrode E placed outside of the packaging container D, and is also provided with a gas supply means G for supplying a rare gas such as argon and helium into the packaging container D.

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Please **replace** the paragraph on page 3 between lines 21 and 28 with the following:

According to the above-described conventional high voltage pulse sterilization method, for example, in the case that the packaging material is a ~~pet-bottle~~PET bottle or the like, the sterilization effect has been only about 1 to 2D [sterilization effect value $D = -\log$ (the survival number of bacteria/ the initial number of bacteria)], and the sterilization has not been performed uniformly, and a practical sterilization effect has not been obtained.

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Please **replace** the paragraph on page 5 between lines 13 and 16 with the following:

In the claim 3 of the present invention, as the packaging materials, not only containers such as a ~~pet-bottle~~PET bottle and a cup but also a plane film can be sterilized by the high voltage pulses.

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Please **replace** the paragraph on page 18 between lines 28 and 32 with the following:

Moreover, when the packaging container 4 such as a ~~pet~~
~~bottle~~PET bottle is in danger of thermal deformation due to a
rise in temperature at the time of sterilization by the high
voltage pulses, the gases are preferred to be cooled to a
suitable temperature for the supply.

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Please **replace** the paragraph beginning on line 33 on page 31 and ending on line 5 on page 32 with the following:

According to the sterilization method as claimed in claim 3 of the present invention, the packaging material is a container or a film in the sterilization method as claimed in claim 1 or 2. Therefore, the method has another remarkable effect of being able to sterilize not only containers such as ~~pet bottle~~PET bottles and cups, but also plane films by the high voltage pulses.

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Please replace Table I (previously amended) with the following:

	Water adhesion		Discharge side electrode	Gas introduced		Sterilization effect value D		
	Amount (g)	Method		Kind of gas	flow rate(l/min)	B.subtilis	B.cereus	A.niger
Embodi- ment 1	None	--	disk type	Air	--	2.1	2.1	2.3
Embodi- ment 2	None	--	helical	Air	--	2.3	2.2	2.5
Embodi- ment 3	None	--	helical	Argon	3	2.8	2.7	3.0
Embodi- ment 4	3	spray	round bar	Air	--	2.2	2.2	3.0
Embodi- ment 5	abt. 1g (cloud)	bubbling	round bar	Air	--	3.5	3.7	4.0
Embodi- ment 6	abt. 1g (cloud)	bubbling	round bar	Ar:70% N:30%	3	4.3	4.3	4.8
Embodi- ment 7	abt. 1g (cloud)	bubbling	disk type	"	3	<u>4.94</u> 3	5.2	6.0
Embodi- ment 8	(cloud)	bubbling	helical	"	3	5.8	6.0	6.9

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Support for the amendment in Table I is found in the Japanese
priority document JP2002-181794.